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HENDON found a new hero at Claremont Road on Tuesday — Mick O'Donaghue, a 19-year-old builder's clerk, who capped a fine display against powerful Wycombe Wanderers with the goal of the month, if not the season, in a splendid 3-0 victory, writes Fred Harris.

O'Donaghue's spectacular 83rd-minute effort was Hendon's third goal of a sparkling display and sent Wycombe home with their tails firmly between their legs, and pondering over the vagaries of football.

In their opening league game Wycombe had won 4-2 against Tooting, who atoned with a 7-3 victory over Barking. Barking trounced Hendon 3-0 on Saturday — so form suggested another setback for Hendon.

Positive

But Hendon, switching to a more positive 4-3-3 formation, played with flair and provided all the shocks against their highly rated rivals.

An improved Bobby Childs paved the way for O'Donaghue's run, which left Wycombe's defence leaden footed.

Picking up a down-the-line pass from Childs, O'Donaghue beat both Wycombe full-backs, Dave Bullock and Paul Birdseye, in a dazzling crossfield run and then deceived goalkeeper Peter Spittle with a firmly-struck angled shot from outside the area.

Gary Hand shook Wycombe with a speculative, second-minute shot, which crashed against an upright — from then on Hendon never looked back.

Johnny Butterfield, who has promised Hendon fans 30 goals this season, struck in the tenth minute when he finished off Rod Haider's free-kick, which had been headed on by Peter Anderson.

Former Finchley defender Alan Campbell, who has successfully completed his month's trial with Hendon, was heavily involved in the second goal after 36 minutes. He met a Childs' corner

from the right with a flying header, and the scrambled attempted clearance by ex-Hendon star Alan Phillips rebounded to Haider, who forced the ball over the line.

Campbell, carried off with a badly twisted ankle after 37 minutes, must be ruled out for Saturday's visit to Sutton.

The attendance was 610, double Saturday's meagre effort, and Hendon's £40 bonus win was the first Wycombe have conceded in over two seasons!

Hendon: M. Dalrymple, M. Cooper, G. Hand, P. Deadman, A. Campbell (injured), R. Haider, P. Anderson, R. O'Callaghan, R. Childs, J. Butterfield, M. O'Donaghue. Substitute: D. Holder.

Wycombe Wanderers: P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, D. Bullock, K. Mead, A. Phillips, A. Davies (withdrawn), H. Kennedy, M. Hollifield, G. Cleary, I. Pearson, A. Horseman. Substitute: G. Swaby.